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09/538,624	03/29/2000	Nosakhare D. Omoigui	MS1-272USC1	8365

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KMZ Rosenman
575 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10022

EXAMINER

JACOBS, LASHONDA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2003

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/538,624

Applicant(s)

OMOIGUI ET AL.

Examiner

LaShonda T. Jacobs

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2, 6, 11.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims **29-34** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Porter et al (hereinafter, "Porter", 5,864,682).

As per claim **29**, Porter discloses one or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to perform functions including:

- receiving a user request at a client for a new playback speed of multimedia content being streamed as a plurality of individual streams to the client (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55); and
- modifying the playback of each stream of the multimedia content in accordance with the new playback speed (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

As per claim **30**, Porter discloses:

- wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to perform functions including sending a message to each of a plurality of individual stream controls, the message indicating the new playback speed (col. 5, lines 38-64, col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

As per claim **31**, Porter discloses:

- wherein the function of sending a message comprises a function of sending the message to an individual stream control located at a server streaming the individual stream of the multimedia content (col. 5, lines 38-64, col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

As per claim **32**, Porter discloses:

- wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to perform functions including each of a plurality of individual stream controls corresponding to the plurality of individual streams monitoring a master clock and adjusting a local clock to keep synchronized with the master clock (col. 5, lines 38-64, col. 16, lines 54-65, col. 17, lines 1-55, and col. 24, lines 19-40).

As per claim **33**, Porter discloses:

- wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to perform functions including performing, by an independent stream control located at the client and corresponding to one of the plurality of individual streams, time scale modification of the one stream in accordance with the new playback speed (col. 5, lines 38-64, col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 24, lines 1-55).

As per claim **34**, Porter discloses:

- wherein the multimedia content includes one or more of an image stream, a text stream, and an animation stream (col. 5, lines 38-64, and col. 6, lines 30-45).

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3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims **1-28** and **35-48** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katseff et al (hereinafter, "Katseff", 5, 822, 537) in view of Porter.

As per claim **1**, Katseff discloses a method comprising:

- detecting, in a system for streaming a plurality of data streams from a server to a client, a potential overburdening of the system (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65); and
- altering playback of the at least one data stream to avoid overburdening the system (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- selecting at least one of the plurality of data streams in response to detecting the potential overburdening of the system.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- selecting at least one of the plurality of data streams in response to detecting the potential overburdening of the system (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 2, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the detecting comprises detecting a potential overburdening of the system by exceeding a server to client bandwidth devoted to the plurality of data streams (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 3, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the detecting comprises detecting a potential overburdening of the system by exceeding a processing capacity of the client (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 4, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the altering comprises pausing the at least one data stream (col. 16, lines 32-36).

As per claim 5, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the altering comprises ceasing time-scale modification of the at least one stream at the client and beginning time-scale modification of the at least one stream at the server.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

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- wherein the altering comprises ceasing time-scale modification of the at least one stream at the client and beginning time-scale modification of the at least one stream at the server (col. 17, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 6, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the altering comprises reducing a quality of the at least one stream (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 7, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the detecting comprises monitoring the system for the potential overburdening in response to receiving a new request for a new playback speed for the plurality of data streams.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the detecting comprises monitoring the system for the potential overburdening in response to receiving a new request for a new playback speed for the plurality of data streams (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the

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teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 8, Katseff discloses:

- detecting when excess capacity is available in the system (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31); and
- altering playback of at least one of the plurality of data streams in response to detecting the excess capacity (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 9, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- allowing a user to modify a set of rules used in selecting the at least one of the plurality of data streams.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- allowing a user to modify a set of rules used in selecting the at least one of the plurality of data streams (col. 18, lines 37-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer higher percentage of qualifying frames within the data streams leaving less bandwidth for transmitting other frames.

As per claim 10, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

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- allowing a user to modify a set of rules used to determine the manner in which playback of the at least one data stream is altered.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- allowing a user to modify a set of rules used to determine the manner in which playback of the at least one data stream is altered (col. 18, lines 37-46).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer higher percentage of qualifying frames within the data streams leaving less bandwidth for transmitting other frames.

As per claim 11, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the plurality of data streams include one or more of an image stream, a text stream, and an animation stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim 12, Katseff discloses:

- one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1 (col. 3, lines 47-67).

As per claim 13, Katseff disclose a system comprising:

- client computer coupled to a network (col. 3, lines 47-67);
- a server computer coupled to transmit a plurality of individual data streams to the client computer via the network (col. 3, lines 47-67, col. 4, lines 55-67, and col. 5, lines 1-6);
- and

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- wherein the client computer is to detect when bandwidth from the server to the client computer that is allotted to transmitting the plurality of individual data streams would be exceeded and take action to prevent the allotted bandwidth from being exceeded (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 14, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the network comprises the Internet (col. 4, lines 58-67).

As per claim 15, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the server is to transmit the plurality of individual data streams to the client computer as a composite media stream (col. 4, lines 55-67, and col. 5, lines 1-27).

As per claim 16, Katseff disclose the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the client computer is to prevent the allotted bandwidth from being exceeded by transferring time-scale modification responsibility from a control component at the client computer to a control component at the server computer.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the client computer is to prevent the allotted bandwidth from being exceeded by transferring time-scale modification responsibility from a control component at the client computer to a control component at the server computer (col. 17, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the

teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 17, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the client computer is to prevent the allotted bandwidth from being exceeded by communicating to the server computer to cease transmitting one of the plurality of individual data streams (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 18, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the client computer is to prevent the allotted bandwidth from being exceeded by communicating to the server computer to switch to a lower-resolution version of one of the plurality of individual data streams (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim 19, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the plurality of individual data streams include one or more of an image stream, a text stream, and an animation stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim 20, Katseff discloses a server computer comprising:

- a bus (col. 3, lines 52-57);
- a memory system, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions (col. 3, lines 52-57); and
- a processor, coupled to the bus, to execute the plurality of instructions (col. 3, lines 52-67)

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

1. receive an indication that time-scale modification for a data stream that was previously performed at a client computer should now be performed at the server computer, and
- transmit a time-scale modified data stream to the client computer.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

1. receive an indication that time-scale modification for a data stream that was previously performed at a client computer should now be performed at the server computer (col. 17, lines 1-11); and
- transmit a time-scale modified data stream to the client computer (col. 17, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 21, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Kastseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the processor is further to select one of a plurality of pre-stored versions of the data stream to transmit as the time-scale modified data stream.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the processor is further to select one of a plurality of pre-stored versions of the data stream to transmit as the time-scale modified data stream (col. 17, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim **22**, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the processor is further to generate the time-scale modified data stream by dynamically time-scale modifying an original version of the data stream.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the processor is further to generate the time-scale modified data stream by dynamically time-scale modifying an original version of the data stream (col. 17, lines 1-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim **23**, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the data stream comprises one or more of an image stream, a text stream, and an animation stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim **24**, Katseff discloses an apparatus comprising:

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- a master control component to maintain a master timeline for a multimedia presentation col. 3, lines 47-67, col. 4, lines 55-67, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 6, lines 60-67, and col. 7, lines 1-3); and
- a plurality of individual stream controls corresponding to individual data streams for the multimedia presentation, wherein each of the plurality of individual stream controls is to maintain a timeline for the corresponding individual data stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60, col. 5, lines 1-27, col. 6, lines 60-67, and col. 7, lines 1-3).

As per claim 25, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- a user request for a new playback speed and communicate the new playback speed to the plurality of individual stream controls.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- a user request for a new playback speed and communicate the new playback speed to the plurality of individual stream controls (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 26, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

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- communicating the new playback speed to the plurality of individual stream controls by sending a message to each of the plurality of individual stream controls.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- communicating the new playback speed to the plurality of individual stream controls by sending a message to each of the plurality of individual stream controls (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 27, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein each of the plurality of individual stream controls is to monitor the master timeline and adjust the timeline a maintained by the stream control to maintain synchronization with the master timeline.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein each of the plurality of individual stream controls is to monitor the master timeline and adjust the timeline a maintained by the stream control to maintain synchronization with the master timeline (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim **28**, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the individual data streams include one or more of an image stream, a text stream, and an animation stream (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim **35**, Katseff discloses a method comprising:

- receiving streaming text from a server (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60);
- receiving a user request to change a playback speed of the streaming text (col. 13, lines 13, lines 25-67, and col. 14, lines 1-6); and
- altering the playback speed of the streaming text in accordance with the to user request (col. 13, lines 25-67, and col. 14, lines 1-6).

As per claim **36**, Katseff discloses:

- detecting a potential overburdening of a system receiving the streaming text (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31); and
- altering playback of the streaming text to avoid overburdening the system (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claim **37**, Katseff discloses:

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- wherein the receiving the user request comprises receiving a user request to increase the playback speed of the streaming text (col. 13, lines 25-67, and col. 14, lines 1-6).

As per claim 38, Katseff discloses:

- wherein the receiving the user request comprises receiving a user request to decrease the playback speed of the streaming text (col. 13, lines 25-67, and col. 14, lines 1-6).

As per claim 41, Katseff discloses:

- one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 35 (col. 3, lines 47-67).

As per claim 42, Katseff discloses a method comprising:

- receiving a plurality of images as streaming image data from a server (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60);
- receiving a user request to change a playback speed of the plurality of images (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60); and
- altering the playback speed of the plurality of images in accordance with the user request (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim 43, Katseff discloses:

- detecting a potential overburdening of a system receiving the streaming image data (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31); and
- altering playback of the streaming image data to avoid overburdening the system (col. 14, lines 56-67, col. 15, lines 1-65, and col. 16, lines 1-31).

As per claims 39 and 44, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the altering comprises performing linear time-scale modification in accordance with the user request.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the altering comprises performing linear time-scale modification in accordance with the user request (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claims 40 and 45, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- wherein the altering comprises performing non-linear time-scale modification in accordance with the user request.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- wherein the altering comprises performing non-linear time-scale modification in accordance with the user request (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

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As per claim 46, Katseff discloses:

- receiving each of the plurality of images as a plurality of layers (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60); and
- wherein the altering comprises, for each of the plurality of images, reducing the number of the plurality of layers that are used to render the image (col. 3, lines 42-46, and col. 4, lines 1-11 and lines 55-60).

As per claim 47, Katseff discloses the invention substantially as claimed.

However, Katseff does not explicitly disclose:

- receiving timeline data corresponding to the plurality of images, the timeline data indicating when the plurality of images are to be rendered.

In an analogous art, Porter discloses a method and apparatus for use in a digital video delivery system comprising:

- receiving timeline data corresponding to the plurality of images, the timeline data indicating when the plurality of images are to be rendered (col. 16, lines 54-65, and col. 17, lines 1-55).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have incorporated Porter teachings of a video delivery system with the teachings of Katseff in order to transfer frames within the data streams according to the bandwidth of the network.

As per claim 48, Katseff discloses:

- one or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 42 (col. 3, lines 47-67).

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Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat. No. 5,893,053 to Trueblood

U.S. Pat. No. 6,169,843 to Lenihan et al

U.S. Pat. No. 5,652,627 to Allen

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LaShonda T. Jacobs whose telephone number is 703-305-7494. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on 703-308-7562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

LaShonda T. Jacobs
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

ltj
September 17, 2003


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100